

# DETERMINING "LOCAL" PRODUCTS FOR LOCAL FOODS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

In 2020, Act 129 changed the definition of "local" to better define Vermont foods. In order to qualify as a local product under the Agency of Education's Local Foods Incentive program, the product must meet one of the following definitions for local.



## 1: Raw Agricultural Product

Food in its raw or natural state, including milk, maple sap or syrup, honey, meat, eggs, apple cider, fruits or vegetables are local if it is:

- Exclusively grown or tapped in Vermont
- Animal products (aside from milk)\* from an animal that was raised and lived in Vermont for much of its life
- Honey produced by Vermont colonies

\*Fluid milk is currently excluded from the Local Foods Incentive program

## 2: Processed Food



Processed foods, products that have been canned, cooked, baked, blended etc., are considered local if the following two things are true:

- Majority of ingredients (50% of ingredients by volume, excluding water) are raw agricultural products that are "local" and
- The product was either processed in Vermont OR the food manufacturer is headquartered in Vermont

## 3: Unique Food Product

Unique food products are made from ingredients not regularly produced or available in sufficient quantities in Vermont. These are considered local if two or more of the following things are true:

- The majority of ingredients (50% of ingredients by volume, excluding water) are raw agricultural products that are local
- Substantial transformation of the ingredients in the product occurred in Vermont
- Headquarters of the company that manufacture the product is in Vermont

## Local Food Examples

### Raw Agricultural Product:

- Meat or eggs from an animal raised and harvested in Vermont
- Carrots grown in Vermont

### Processed Food:

- Butter that is made from majority of local milk and was either processed in Vermont or the manufacturer is headquartered in Vermont
- Salsa processed in Vermont, or sold by a company headquartered in Vermont, where half of the raw ingredients (excluding water) are "local"

### Unique Food Product:

- Muffins processed in Vermont and sold by a company headquartered in Vermont, where the main ingredients can't be sourced locally because there isn't a sufficient local supply, i.e. flour
- Guacamole processed in Vermont and sold by a company headquartered in Vermont but made from imported avocados because local avocados aren't commercially available



This informational sheet is intended to broadly introduce "local" requirements. Businesses are responsible for asserting their products meet the "local food" definition and should review specific legal requirements to ensure related compliance. Reach out to Julia Scheier with questions: [Julia.Scheier@vermont.gov](mailto:Julia.Scheier@vermont.gov); 802-522-7042.